Hakuto no Gun and HappyScans! Proudly Present: Tiger Mask (Volume 01)
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YEAH, IT WAS SCARY, BUT...
WE WANTED TO TURN IT OFF AT FIRST... BUT...
OKAY, I TURNED IT OFF. IT'S OVER, ANYWAY...
SFX: CLICK!
IT LOOKED JUST LIKE WHAT NAOTO DID WHEN HE MADE THE AKANUMA GANG FIGHT EACH OTHER!
BUT THE WAY TIGER MASK MADE THE FOREIGN DUO TAKE EACH OTHER OUT... REMEMBER?
HIS FOUL MOVES ARE TOO AMAZING...!
TIGER MASK IS REALLY AMAZING.
HOHO HO!
HEHE HE!
HAHA HA!
BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, NAOTO MAY BE WEAK, BUT NO ONE ELSE REALLY RESEMBLES THE DEVILISHLY STRONG TIGER MASK AS HIM...
THAT WEAKLING BIG BRO DIDN'T TOUCH ANYONE UNTIL THE VERY END!
PFFFT! NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
HUH? SO HE SENT THE MONEY LIKE HE PROMISED?
HE SAID IT'S FROM NAOTO
RURIKO, THE POSTMAN JUST BROUGHT THIS OVER
YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT NO. NAOTO CAN'T EVEN POUND RICE WELL.. I'D BETTER STOP THIS DAYDREAM CONNECTING NAOTO AND TIGER...
AH!

THERE'S A LETTER, TOO!
This is just loose change to me, so just use it and don't give me any mind.
I look forward to seeing you again!
Thanks, Naoto.
WAKATSUKI, THIS IS ENOUGH TO PAY BACK THE AKANUMA GANG, WITH INTEREST...
IT'S A CHECK... L-LOOK HOW MUCH IT'S FOR!
YEAH... BUT THIS STILL SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE ..
SO IF THIS IS JUST LOOSE CHANGE TO NAOTO, THEN WE CAN BORROW IT TO TAKE CARE OF THE CHILDREN.
SO HE WASN'T EXAGGERATING WHEN HE SAID HE INHERITED FROM A BILLIONAIRE RELATIVE IN HAWAII...
SFX: SKREEEK
ちびっこハウス
SIGN: KIDDIE HOUSE
ちびっこハウス
SIGN: KIDDIE HOUSE
PARDON ME

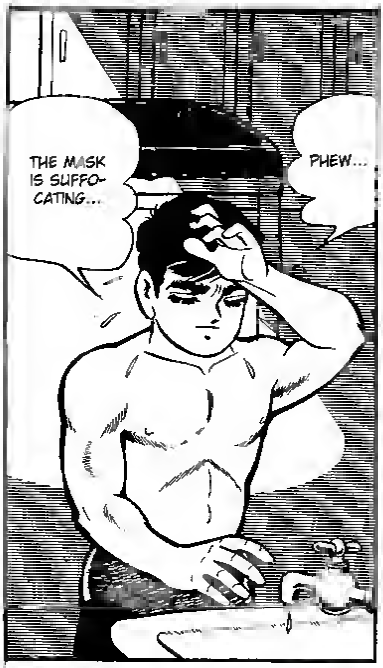
YEAH... HAPPY NEW YEAR...
WELL, FIRST, LET ME WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR, LIKE A NORMAL PERSON WOULD
AH, IT'S THE BOSS OF THE AKANUMA GANG!
HEHE HE..
OH, THIS? THIS IS HOW YOU'RE REPAYING?
MHMM?
NOW THEN... I HEARD THAT YOU WANT TO REPAY THE MONEY. IF THAT'S SO, THERE WILL BE NO MORE PROBLEMS.
N... NOT ENOUGH? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO PAY OFF THE DEBT, WITH INTEREST...
BUT THIS STILL IS NOT ENOUGH
BUT...?
I HEAR YOU'VE GOT A RICH MAN ON YOUR SIDE, BUT I CAN BARELY BELIEVE HE'D GIVE YOU THIS MUCH... BUT...
BAH! THIS IS COMPLETELY LEGAL, YOU KNOW! BUT I GUESS I'LL TAKE THIS AS HALF THE AMOUNT!
THE INTEREST IS EVEN MORE THAN THE CAPITAL! THAT'S COMPLETELY ABSURD!
T... THAT'S TERRIBLE!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SCHOOLED. TAKE ANOTHER LOOK. THIS IS HOW YOU CALCULATE INTEREST!

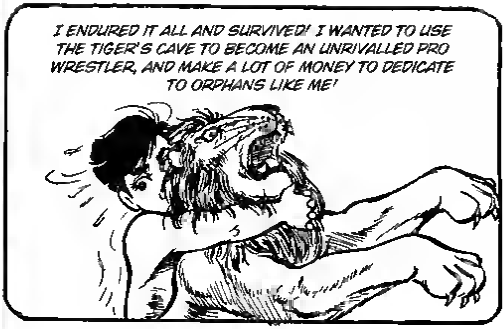
BUT IF YOU DON'T REPAY THE OTHER HALF WITHIN A WEEK, THIS WILL NO LONGER BE VALID
WHAT IS THE TIGER'S CAVE?
DID YOU REALLY COME FROM THE TIGER'S CAVE, AS GIANT BABA HAS SAID?
TIGER MASK, MAY I ASK FOR AN INTERVIEW?
WAIT..
HEY..
SFX SLAM!
SFX CLACK!

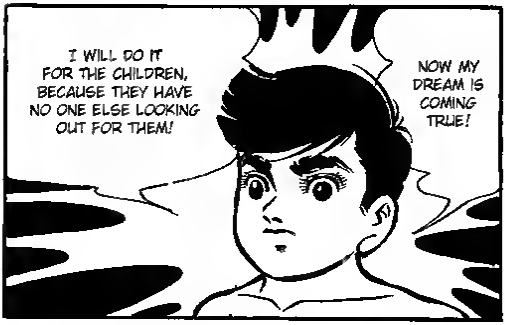
.....
WHEN THE ORPHANAGE HAD TO BE SHUT DOWN..
TEN YEARS AGO..
EVEN IF I TAKE OFF THIS MASK, IT DOESN'T MAKE ME A DIFFERENT PERSON. NAOTO DATE IS TIGER MASK..
IT WAS THERE THAT I DECIDED THAT I WANTED TO BE AS STRONG AS A TIGER...
IT ALL STARTED AT THE TIGER CAGE, WHEN WE WENT TO UENO ZOO AS A FINAL OUTING...
BACK THEN, I FOUGHT WITH BOYS FROM HAPPY HOUSEHOLDS ..
TO FIGHT AGAINST THIS COLD AND CRUEL SOCIETY.

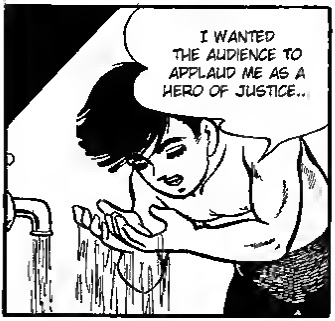
IT WAS THEN THAT A FOREIGN GENTLEMAN APPROACHED ME... HE WAS AN EMISSARY OF THE TIGER'S CAVE!
AND FINALLY I SHOOK OFF RURIKO AND RAN AWAY...
HE BROUGHT ME TO THE HELLISH GYM CALLED THE TIGER'S CAVE, WHERE THEY TRAIN COMPLETE HEEL WRESTLERS AND SEND THEM TO PRO WRESTLING ASSOCIATIONS AROUND THE WORLD...
HE WAS A DEVILISH TALENT SCOUT LOOKING AROUND THE WORLD FOR BAD-TEMPERED, STRONG BOYS WITH NO RELATIVES!
WITH EVERY METHOD...
I WAS TRAINED...
力
THAT YOU COULD THINK OF
ALONGSIDE BOYS GATHERED FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD...
SFX: BAM!

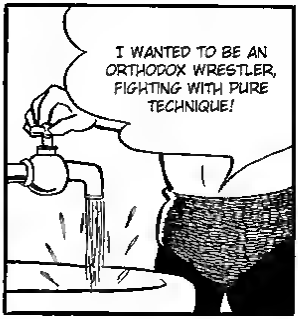
AFTER FIVE AND A HALF YEARS OF DREADFUL TRAINING, TWO-THIRDS DIED... AND HALF OF THE SURVIVORS WERE UNABLE TO RECOVER.. THESE NUMBERS TELL ALL ABOUT HOW INTENSE THE HELLISH TRAINING WAS... AND THOSE OF US WHO SURVIVED...
AND HAD TO FIGHT WILD ANIMALS.
HAD TO SWIM FIFTY METERS IN A POOL FULL OF COAL TAR AND HEAVY OIL...
ONE GUY HAD HIS ARM BITTEN OFF...
ANOTHER HIS LEG...
A TIGER IS STRONGER THAN A LION!
YOU ARE A TIGER! YOU WILL BECOME A TIGER!


THE MASK IS SUFFOCATING...
PHEW...

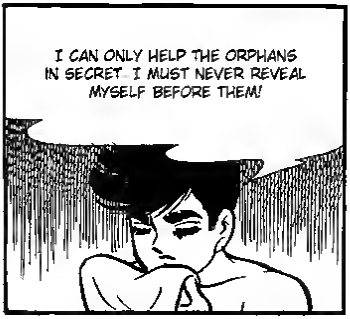

I ENDURED IT ALL AND SURVIVED! I WANTED TO USE THE TIGER'S CAVE TO BECOME AN UNRIVALLED PRO WRESTLER, AND MAKE A LOT OF MONEY TO DEDICATE TO ORPHANS LIKE ME!

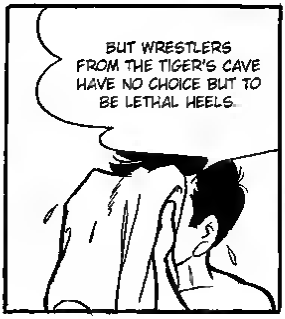

I WILL DO IT FOR THE CHILDREN, BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO ONE ELSE LOOKING OUT FOR THEM!
NOW MY DREAM IS COMING TRUE!


I WANTED THE AUDIENCE TO APPLAUD ME AS A HERO OF JUSTICE..


I WANTED TO BE AN ORTHODOX WRESTLER, FIGHTING WITH PURE TECHNIQUE!

I NEVER WANTED TO BE A HEEL.


I CAN ONLY HELP THE ORPHANS IN SECRET. I MUST NEVER REVEAL MYSELF BEFORE THEM!


BUT WRESTLERS FROM THE TIGER'S CAVE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BE LETHAL HEELS.

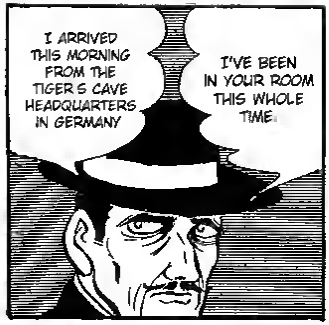
I WISH..

WELL, AREN'T YOU THE GENTLE, BLOODY ANGEL... BUT...

THAT'S JUST FINE AND DANDY...

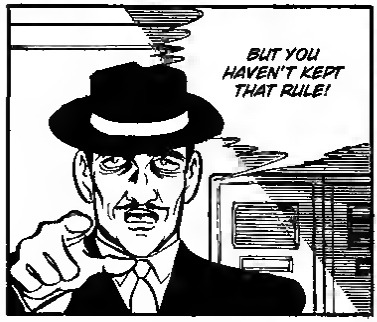
WHO ARE YOU!?
WHO..

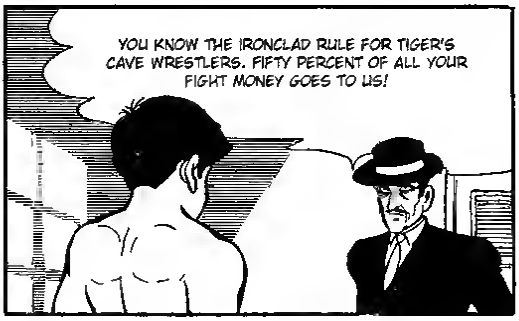
HAHA HA!
WHO'S THERE ?


I ARRIVED THIS MORNING FROM THE TIGER'S CAVE HEADQUARTERS IN GERMANY
I'VE BEEN IN YOUR ROOM THIS WHOLE TIME.

Y-YOU'RE MISTER X, MANAGER OF THE TIGER'S CAVE! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE...?

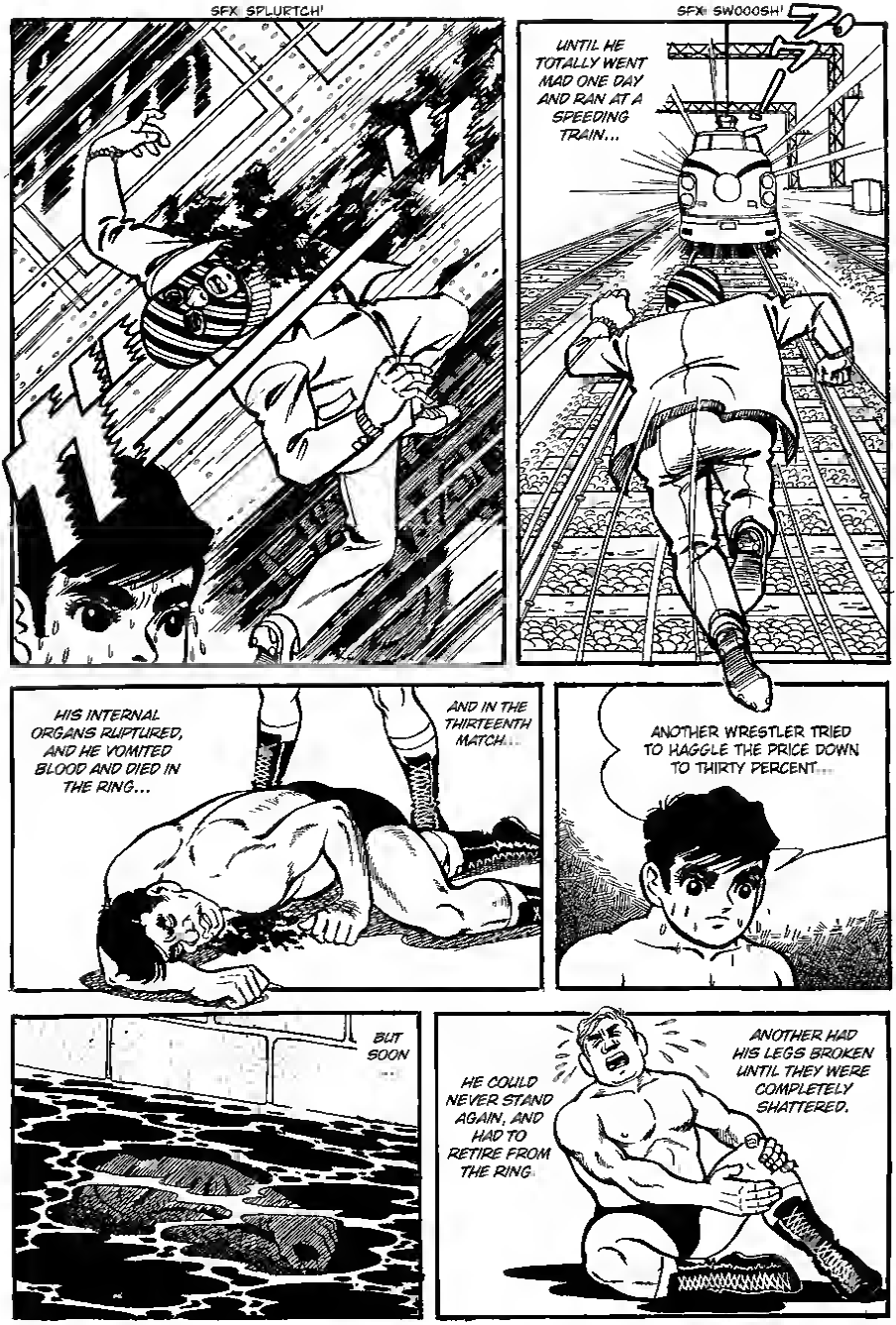
HAVEN'T YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR DUTY TO THE TIGER'S CAVE!?

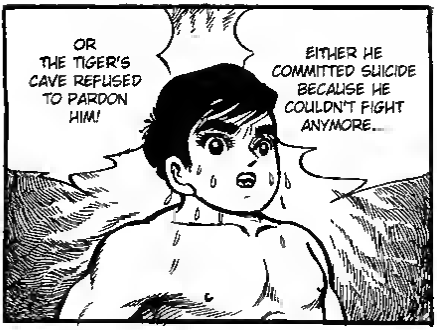

BUT YOU HAVEN'T KEPT THAT RULE!


YOU KNOW THE IRONCLAD RULE FOR TIGER'S CAVE WRESTLERS. FIFTY PERCENT OF ALL YOUR FIGHT MONEY GOES TO US!

I DONATED IT ALL TO AN ORPHANAGE, SO I HAVE NONE LEFT.
I REALLY NEEDED ALL THE MONEY RIGHT AWAY..
I-I NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME TO PAY THE MONEY BACK TO BE HONEST...
ALL THE HEEL WRESTLERS OF THE TIGER DEN FROM AROUND THE WORLD...
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO WRESTLERS WHO DON'T KEEP THEIR DUTIES TOWARDS THE TIGER'S CAVE THAT TRAINED THEM!
NO EXCUSES!
WILL HOUND YOU UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE IN THE RING! HAHAHA!
PRECISELY! ALL THE HEEL WRESTLERS OF THE TIGER'S DEN
AND COME AFTER ME... OOH...!
WILL BECOME MY ENEMIES.

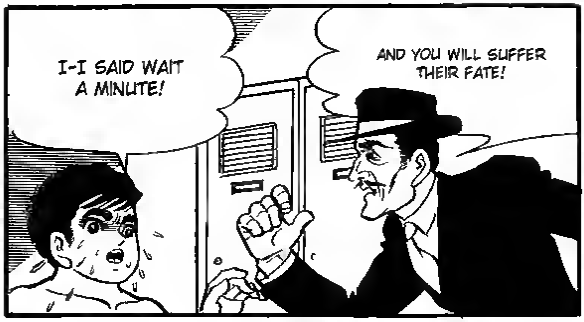
BECAUSE THE TIGER'S CAVE'S DEATH SENTENCES ARE ALWAYS CARRIED OUT!
BUT THAT'S THE ONLY THING I'M AFRAID OF.
I'M USUALLY A FEARLESS MAN...
NO WAIT.
ONE MAN CHANGED HIS NAME AND WORE A MASK BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO PAY HALF OF HIS FIGHT MONEY.
ALL MY SENIORS WHO BETRAYED THE TIGER'S CAVE DIED TERRIBLE DEATHS WITH NO EXCEPTIONS.
SFX BAM!
HE FINALLY WENT CRAZY...
IN HIS NINTH MATCH...
HE WAS VERY STRONG, BUT HE WAS DISCOVERED RIGHT AWAY, AND WRESTLERS FROM THE TIGER'S CAVE CHALLENGED HIM, ONLY HITTING HIS HEAD.
AND HAD STRANGE VISIONS ...
HE HEARD STRANGE NOISES...

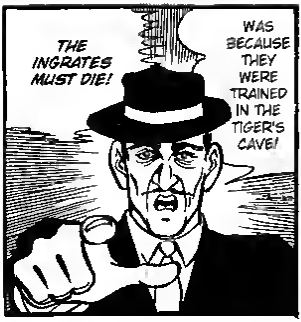

SFX: SPLURTCH!
SFX: SWOOOSH!
UNTIL HE TOTALLY WENT MAD ONE DAY AND RAN AT A SPEEDING TRAIN...
HIS INTERNAL ORGANS RUPTURED, AND HE VOMITED BLOOD AND DIED IN THE RING...
AND IN THE THIRTEENTH MATCH...
ANOTHER WRESTLER TRIED TO HAGGLE THE PRICE DOWN TO THIRTY PERCENT...
BUT SOON...
HE COULD NEVER STAND AGAIN, AND HAD TO RETIRE FROM THE RING.
ANOTHER HAD HIS LEGS BROKEN UNTIL THEY WERE COMPLETELY SHATTERED.


OR THE TIGER'S CAVE REFUSED TO PARDON HIM!
EITHER HE COMMITTED SUICIDE BECAUSE HE COULDN'T FIGHT ANYMORE...

HE WAS DISCOVERED DEAD.

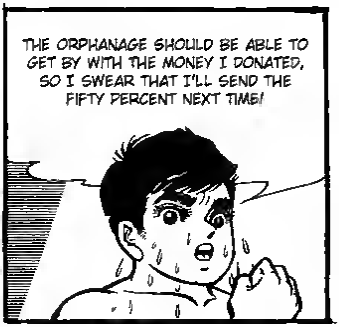
THE ONLY REASON THEY BECAME STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE SO MUCH MONEY...
HAHAHA! YES, THAT'S RIGHT.


I-I SAID WAIT A MINUTE!
AND YOU WILL SUFFER THEIR FATE!

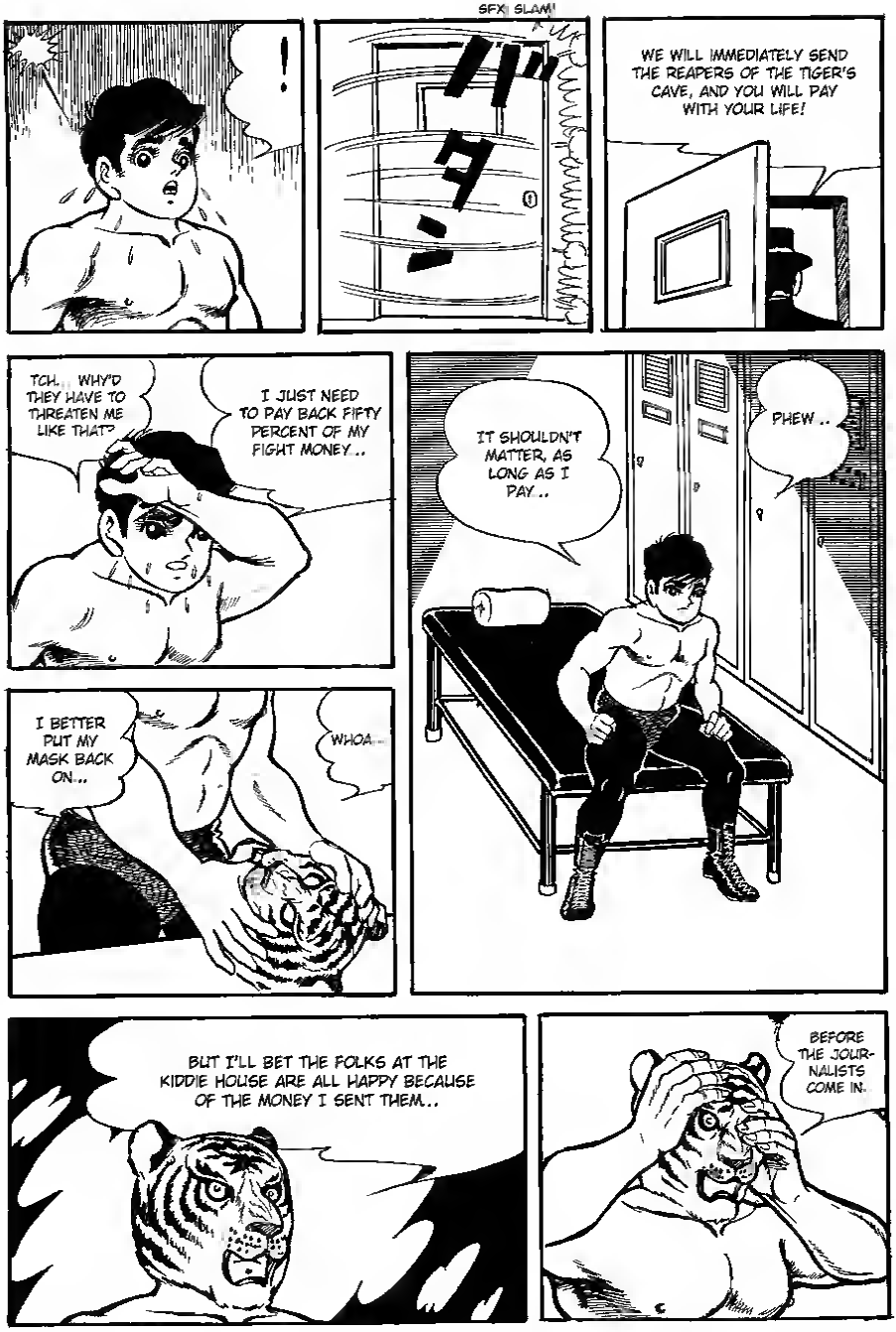

THE INGRATES MUST DIE!
WAS BECAUSE THEY WERE TRAINED IN THE TIGER'S CAVE!

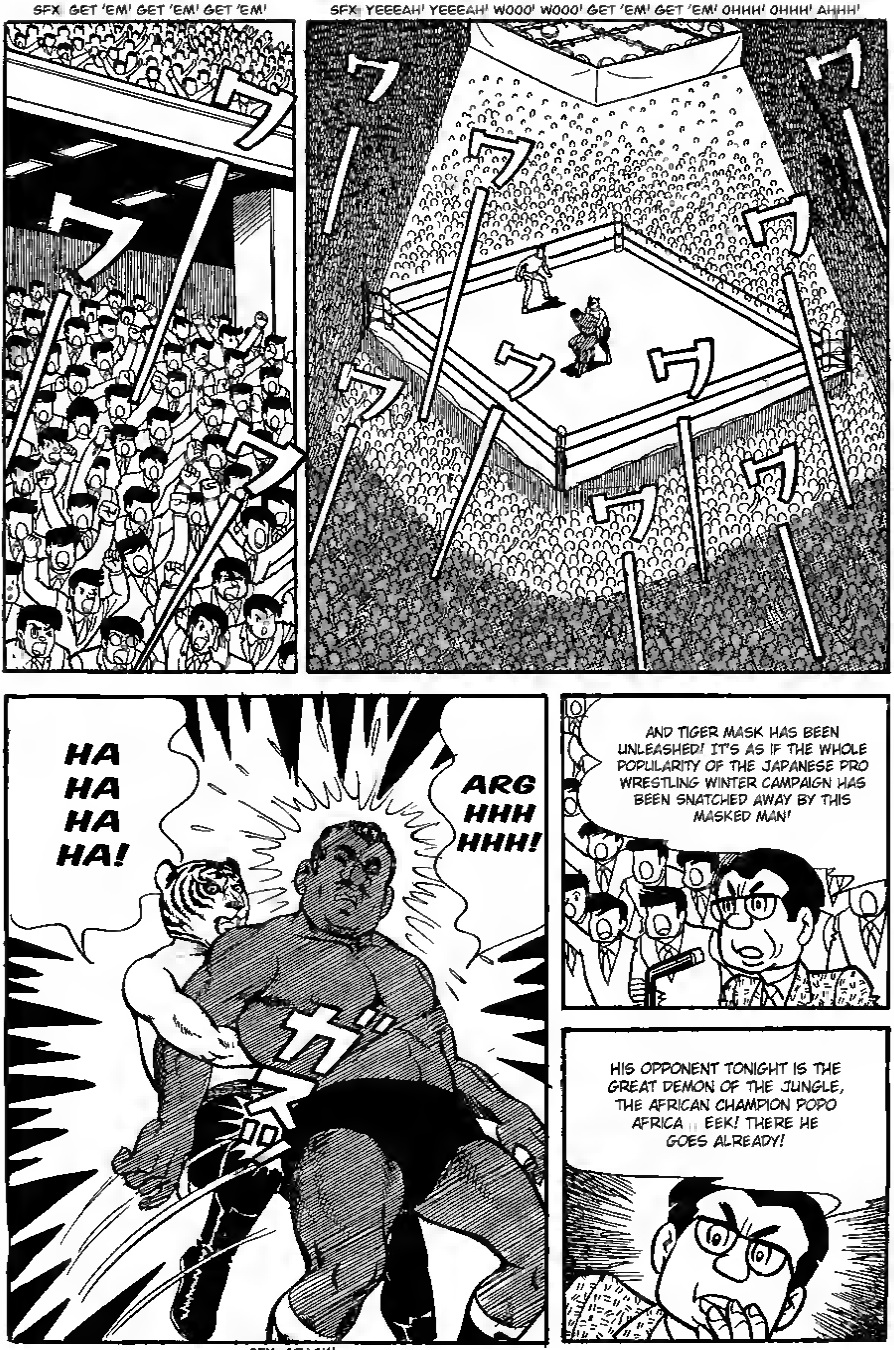
I'LL MAKE THE MONEY I OWE YOU FROM MY NEXT MATCH... I PROMISE...

.....


THE ORPHANAGE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET BY WITH THE MONEY I DONATED, SO I SWEAR THAT I'LL SEND THE FIFTY PERCENT NEXT TIME!

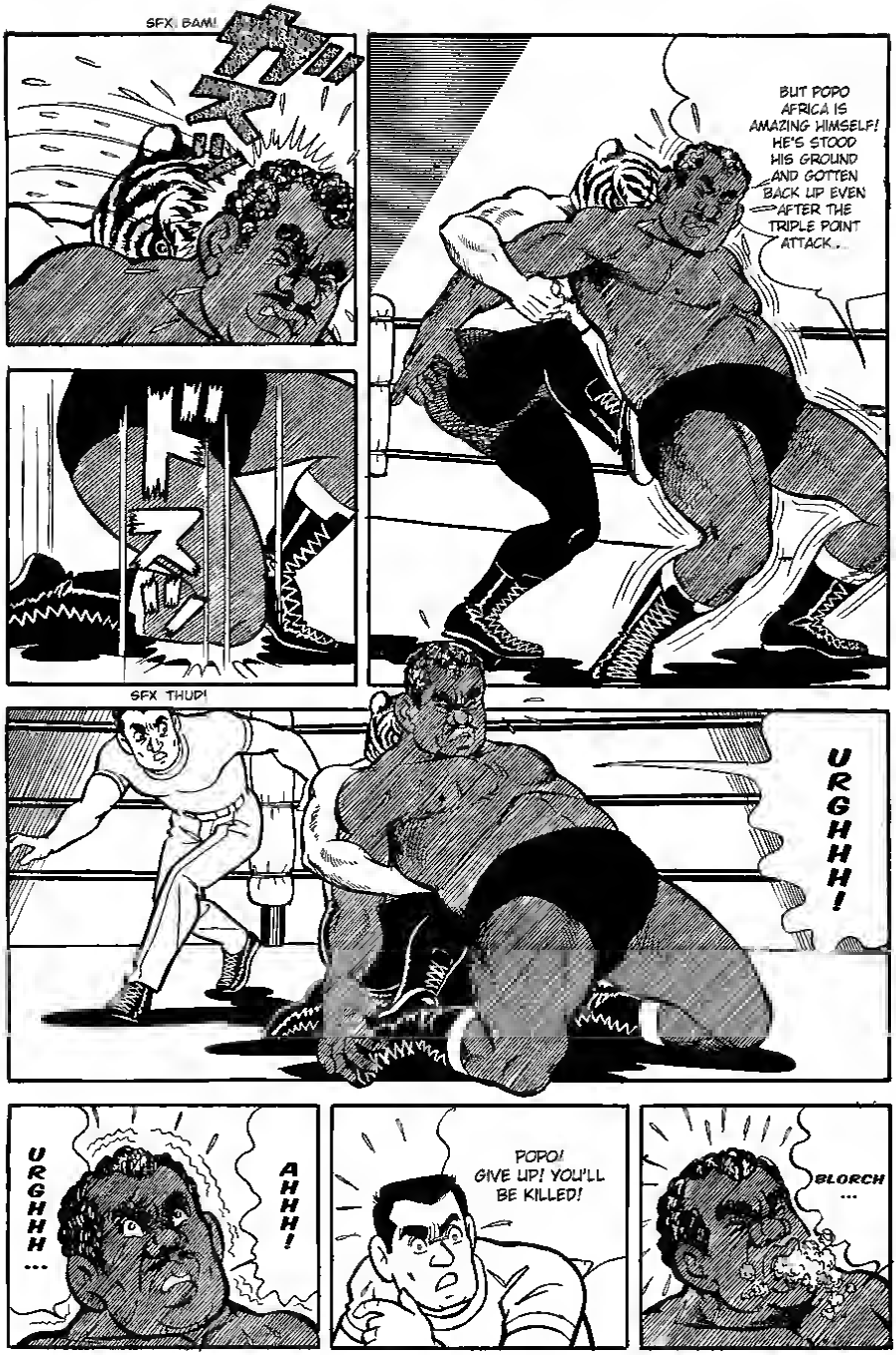
……
YOU HEARD ME...? I SWEAR I'LL SEND IT, JUST PLEASE DON'T SEND ANY MESSENGERS FROM THE TIGER'S CAVE! I DON'T WANT ANY INVITATIONS TO DEATH...
……
IT SEEMS YOU REALLY DO SWEAR
……
I TOLD YOU OVER AND OVER, I SWEAR TO PAY YOU!
P..PLEASE, SAY SOMETHING..
IF YOU'RE EVER LATE ON YOUR PAYMENTS AGAIN...
THAT MEANS WE HAVE HIGH ENOUGH EXPECTATIONS OF YOU THAT WE CALL YOU THE TIGER! WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO KILL YOU.
はあ
はあ
はあ
YOU'RE THE TIGER OF THE TIGER'S CAVE...
SFX: HUFF HUFF HUF
HOWEVER!
WANT TO DIE, EITHER...
I-I DON'T.


!
SFX: SLAM!
WE WILL IMMEDIATELY SEND THE REAPERS OF THE TIGER'S CAVE, AND YOU WILL PAY WITH YOUR LIFE!
TCH... WHY'D THEY HAVE TO THREATEN ME LIKE THAT?
I JUST NEED TO PAY BACK FIFTY PERCENT OF MY FIGHT MONEY..
IT SHOULDN'T MATTER, AS LONG AS I PAY..
PHEW..
I BETTER PUT MY MASK BACK ON..
WHOA..
BUT I'LL BET THE FOLKS AT THE KIDDIE HOUSE ARE ALL HAPPY BECAUSE OF THE MONEY I SENT THEM..
BEFORE THE JOURNALISTS COME IN.

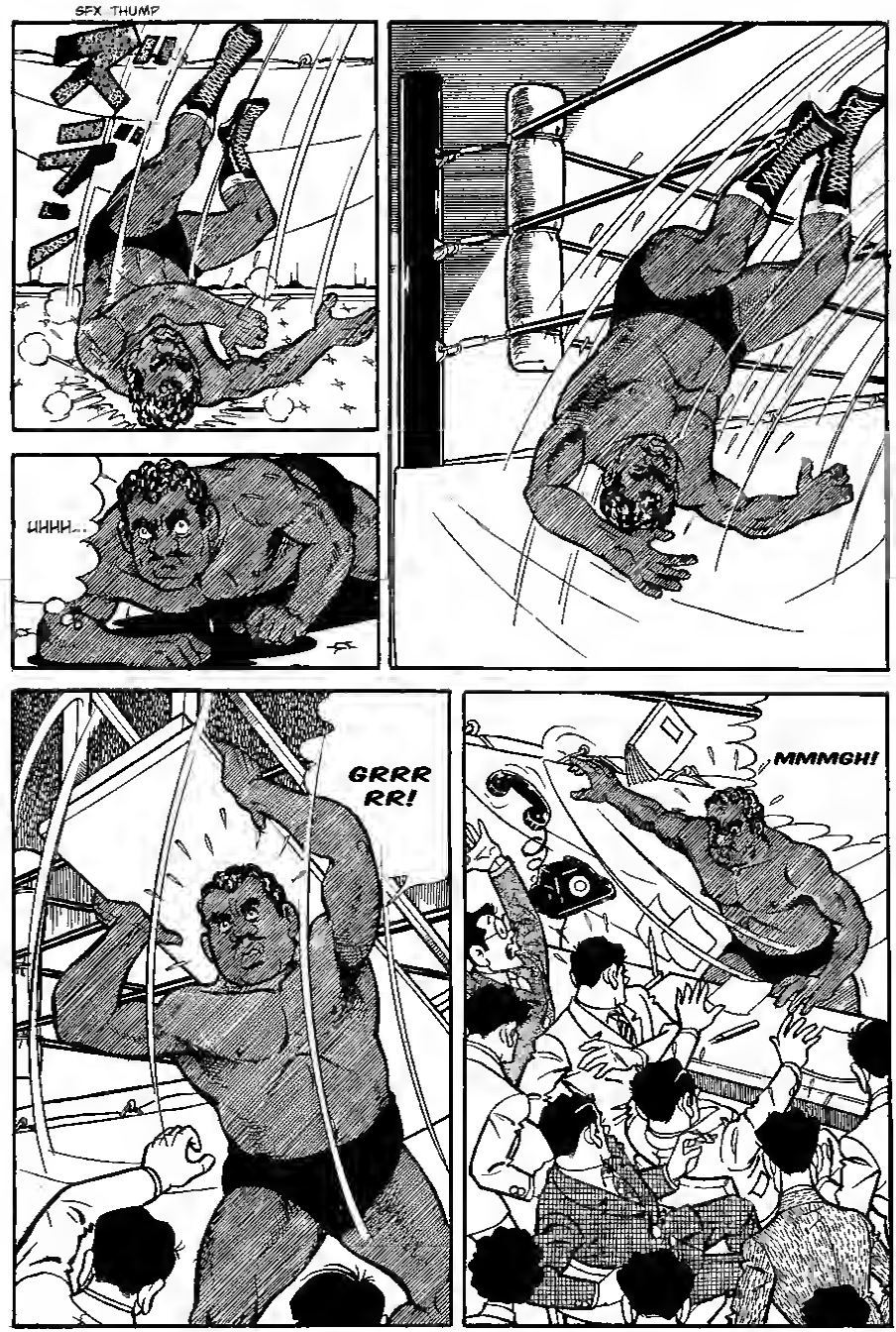

SFX: GET 'EM! GET 'EM! GET 'EM!
SFX: YEEEAH! YEEEAH! WOOO! WOOO! GET 'EM! GET 'EM! OHHH! OHHH! AHHH!
HA HA HA HA!
ARG HHH HHH!
AND TIGER MASK HAS BEEN UNLEASHED! IT'S AS IF THE WHOLE POPULARITY OF THE JAPANESE PRO WRESTLING WINTER CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN SNATCHED AWAY BY THIS MASKED MAN!
HIS OPPONENT TONIGHT IS THE GREAT DEMON OF THE JUNGLE, THE AFRICAN CHAMPION POPO AFRICA... EEK! THERE HE GOES ALREADY!
SFX: CRACK!

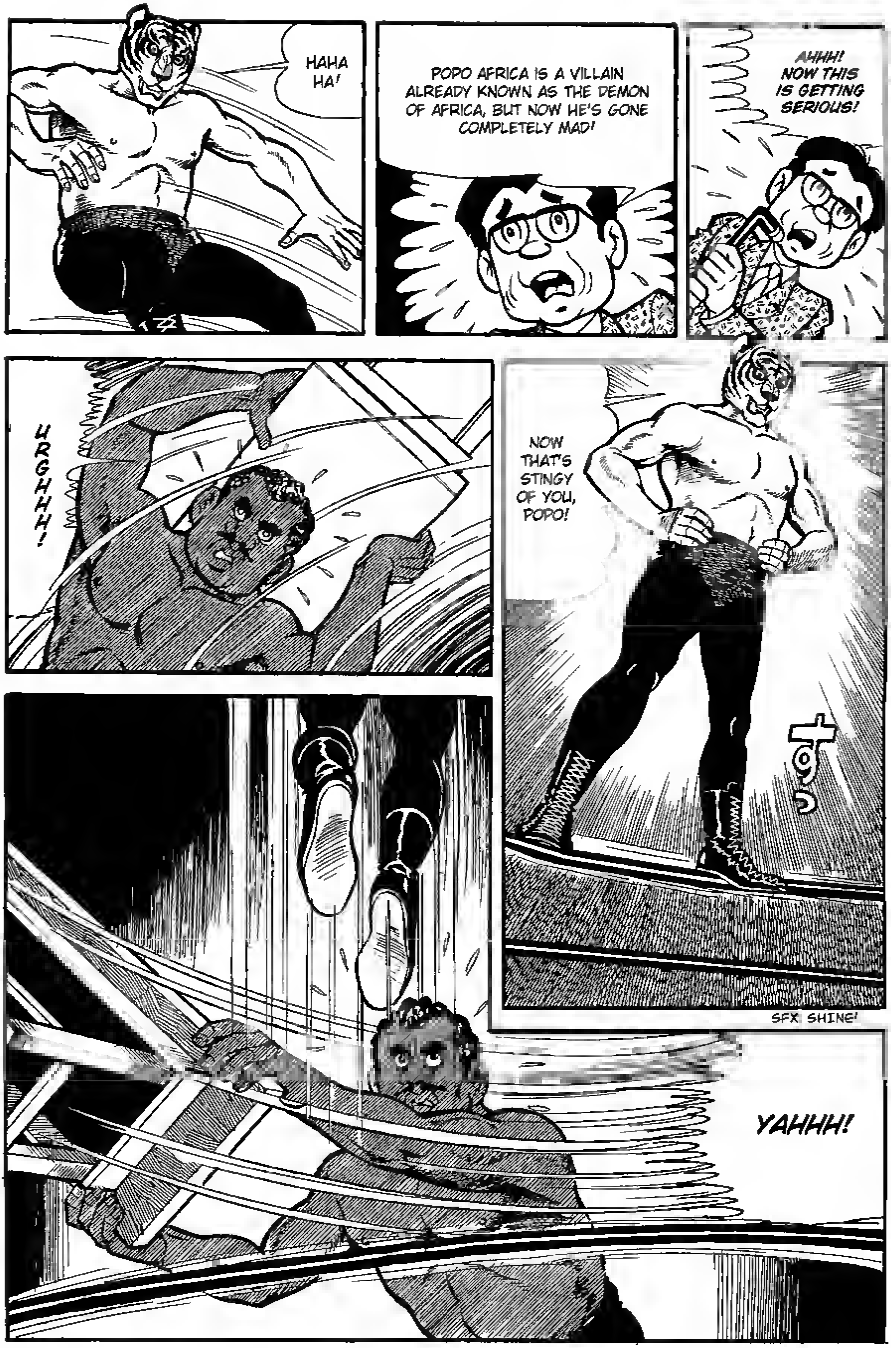
URGHHH!
SFX: BAM!
ARGH!
KAHHH!
OH... AHHH...
SFX: CRACK!
SFX: BAM! BAM!
UGHHH!

SFX: SWOOSH!
HE BROKE POPO AFRICA'S TAILBONE WITH HIS KNEE AND HEADBUTTED HIS NECK WITH A HEADBUTT...
TIGER'S WILD ATTACKS ARE AS IMPRESSIVE AS EVER!
AMAZ-ING!
SFX: BAM! BAM! BAM!
AHHHHHHH!
SFX: THUMP! THUMP!
TIGER MASK IS JUST LIKE A FEROCIOUS TIGER BITING A GIANT BLACK ELEPHANT... HE'S GIVING ME SHIVERS...
HE'S TWISTING ON HIS ARMS, INJURING HIS BACK WITH HIS FOOT, AND FOLLOWING IT WITH HEADBUTTS!
THIS IS A FIENDISH TRIPLE POINT ATTACK!


SFX: BAM!
BUT POPO AFRICA IS AMAZING HIMSELF! HE'S STOOD HIS GROUND AND GOTTEN BACK UP EVEN AFTER THE TRIPLE POINT ATTACK..
SFX THUD!
URGHHH!
URGHHH...
AHHH!
POPO! GIVE UP! YOU'LL BE KILLED!
BLORCH...

NOW WE CAN REST ASSURED.
AH, IT SEEMS HE HAS SURRENDERED.
SFX: FLIP!
ガバッ
LET ME SHOW HIM A LITTLE MORE PAIN!
OH NO, DON'T GIVE UP NOW WHILE I'M HAVING FUN!
SFX: POW!
UGH!


SFX THUMP
UHHH...
GRRR RR!
MMMGH!


HAHA HA!
POPO AFRICA IS A VILLAIN ALREADY KNOWN AS THE DEMON OF AFRICA, BUT NOW HE'S GONE COMPLETELY MAD!
AHHH! NOW THIS IS GETTING SERIOUS!
URGHHH!
NOW THAT'S STINGY OF YOU, POPO!
ヒョイ
SFX: SHINE!
YAHHH!

TOAHHH!
SFX: CRASH!

OHHH
AIEEEE!
OH!
AH!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF THE GREAT BLACK DEMON OF AFRICA? MORE LIKE THE BLACK RABBIT!
WAHHAH HAH!
SFX SNAP!
AH! I HAVE A GREAT IDEA!
H-HE'S THE BIGGEST FOUL PLAYER OF THE CENTURY...
H-HOW DREADFUL...
I'LL LIGHT A FIRE WITH THIS WOOD AND SHOW YOU HOW TO ROAST A RABBIT!
HEY, ANNOUNCER... LEND ME YOUR LIGHTER

SIGN: JAPANESE CONTESTANT WAITING ROOM

WE JAPANESE WRESTLERS OBSERVE THE TRADITION OF FAIR MATCHES, AS THE LATE MASTER RIKIDOZAN TAUGHT US.
BUT WITH MATCHES SUCH AS YOURS...

EVEN IF THE FANS HATE ME, THEY'LL BE DESPERATE TO SEE MY MATCHES!
I'M POPULAR EVEN DESPITE MY TERROR!
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!
YOU'RE RUINING THE TRADITION OUR MASTER STARTED!.. AND THIS IS AFFECTING THE POPULARITY OF JAPANESE PRO WRESTLING!
NOT TO BE RUDE, BUT YOU'RE OVER-THINKING IT.
HAHAHA!
BUT THEY'LL BE SICK OF YOU SOONER OR LATER! AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, ONLY THEIR HATRED WILL REMAIN!
WELL, I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT...
PLEASE!
MR BABA, CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH!?
MY SON REALLY WANTS YOUR AUTOGRAPH...
MY ROOTS ARE JAPANESE AND WHO WOULD COMPLAIN TO SEE A JAPANESE CRUSHING A FOREIGN HEEL?
IT'S ALREADY LIKE THAT NOW.
BUT ..

HE'S SO TERRIFYING I EVEN HAVE NIGHTMARES OF THAT TIGER'S MASK!
HE'S RIGHT! AND THROW HIM OUT OF THE JAPANESE PRO WRESTLING ASSOCIATION WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!
STOP THIS AT ONCE! HE'S A FILTHY, BRUTAL DEMON!
AH! WHY IS OUR HERO, MR BABA, IN THE CHANGING ROOM WITH TIGER MASK?
FROM NOW ON, WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT FIGHT IN A MATCH AS A MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE WRESTLING ASSOCIATION.
SO I REALLY HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT...
NOW DO YOU SEE...?
I'M HATED IN AMERICA, AND NOW I'M HATED IN MY HOME COUNTRY OF JAPAN... WHAT A SAD FATE FOR TIGER MASK.
SO YOU'RE BASICALLY FIRING ME!
HAHA HA!
THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY FOREIGN WRESTLERS WHO WANT TO WRESTLE WITH YOU. PERHAPS THEY ARE AFRAID OF YOUR VILLAINY
BUT AMERICA IS A BIG PLACE. YOU CAN JUST KEEP FIGHTING IN AMERICA.
THAT'S WHAT YOU NEEDED TO DO!
YEAH, TELL IT TO HIM, MR. BABA!

UH!
OH!
AH!
WELL... I SUPPOSE THIS IS FAREWELL TO JAPANESE WRESTLING
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.
THEY MAY SLANDER HIM AT A DISTANCE, BUT THE FANS ARE REALLY AFRAID OF HIM.
!
TIGER MASK, CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH. .?
COME ON! PLEASE!?
I LIKE ANYONE THAT IS STRONG!
.....
COME ON, PLEASE! I WANT TO SHOW IT TO MY FRIENDS AT KINDERGARTEN! HAVING TIGER MASK'S AUTOGRAPH WOULD BE AWESOME!

A-AREN'T YOU SCARED?
DAD... WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A PANIC? I'M JUST GETTING AN AUTOGRAPH.
NOW, COME WITH PAPA!
OH GOD, YOSHIO, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING...?
BUT IF . I HAD A BROTHER .
I'M .. AN ONLY CHILD, AND I FEEL LONELY WITHOUT BROTHERS OR SISTERS.
HUH? YOU GROWN-UPS ARE WEIRD. OF COURSE I'M NOT SCARED. LOOK AT TIGER MASK'S EYES.
W-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? THAT SMALL CHILD DOESN'T FEAR TIGER...
HUH!?
.....
I WONDER IF HE'D LOOK AT ME WITH THOSE EYES .
WAIT A MINUTE.
TIGER MASK!
IF AN INNOCENT CHILD CAN SEE SOMEONE'S TRUE NATURE WITHOUT BEING DECEIVED BY THEIR WORDS OR ATTITUDE, THAT MEANS...

I ALMOST FORGOT.
OH..
TRUTH IS, I HAVE A REASON I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE JAPAN
OH. I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THAT.
I'M GOING TO RETHINK CUTTING YOU OFF FROM THE JAPANESE PRO WRESTLING ASSOCIATION.
BUT THE TRUTH IS, I HAVE TO GIVE HALF OF THIS MONEY TO THE TIGER'S CAVE AND CONTINUE BEING A LETHAL HEEL WRESTLER...
HAHAHA! NOW I'M EVEN MORE GRATEFUL
I HAD KEPT ALL YOUR FIGHT MONEY TILL NOW BECAUSE I WAS PLANNING ON CUTTING YOU OFF, BUT LET ME GIVE IT TO YOU WHILE YOU'RE STILL HERE
WELL, THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL... IF THE JAPANESE WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CUT ME OFF, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PAY OFF MY DEBT TO THE TIGER'S CAVE...
IT'S A SAD LAW FOR ALL WRESTLERS OF THE TIGER'S CAVE.
FORGIVE ME.
MR BABA...
SFX VROOOM